

I am nonplussed by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. This election is a critical one that will determine our democracy for years to come. The process should be one that is informed and that uses the media in a balanced way. Sinclair should be barred from airing an anti-Kerry piece, but if they are allowed to do so, then another piece that provides balance in favor of Kerry should be aired. Let freedom ring!

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.